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[CLAIMS]

1. Method of assessing the quality of the recording characteristics
5 of a hard copy recorder comprising the steps of
 - retrieving from a memory a digital signal representation of a
 test image,

10 - controlling the recorder to generate a hard copy of said test
 image corresponding with said digital signal representation,

15 - performing at least one density measurement on the hard copy of
 said test image by means of a densitometer part of said recorder,
 - generating a digital quality report of said hard copy recorder,
 said quality report comprising at least the results of said
 density measurement,

20 - storing said quality report.

2. Method according to claim 1 wherein said digital quality report
comprises data identifying the date of the measurement.

25 3. Method according to claim 1 wherein a hard copy of said quality
 report is generated by means of said hard copy recorder.

4. A hard copy recorder comprising

25 - a memory wherein a digital signal representation of a test
 image is stored,

30 - means for controlling said recorder to generate a hard copy
 corresponding with the digital signal representation of said test
 image on a recording material,

35 - a densitometer part of said recorder arranged for performing at
 least one density measurement on said test image,

 - means for generating a digital quality report of said hard copy
 recorder, said quality report at least comprising the results of
 said density measurement,

 - means for storing said digital quality report.

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5. A hard copy recorder according to claim 4 arranged for generating
a hard copy of said quality report.

6. A thermal hard copy recorder according to claim 4.

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7. A thermal hard copy recorder according to claim 5.

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